ASUKA COMICS DX

裏切りは僕の名前を知っている

5

小田切ほたる

Hotaru Odagiri

The Betrayal
Knows My Name

The Betrayal Knows My Name

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Contents

Story 22 Traces 7

Story 23 Frozen Time 39

Story 24 Paradise Lost 75

Story 25 Determination, and then..... 115

Story 26 "Night" 147

Afterword 174

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小田切ほたる

character

祇王一族

祇王 橘

「黄昏館」の館長。
戒めの手達を監督する。

祇王天白

祇王一族の総帥で夕月の異母兄。千年前の「黄泉の落日」以降、記憶を維持し続けている一族きっての能力者で、【予言者】でもあり【悪魔召喚士】でもある。

藤原彌涼

「黄昏館」の医務室に常勤する、祇王一族の主治医。悪魔に受けた傷の効果的な治療法を研究している。

呉羽 綾

「黄昏館」常勤のお世話係。

兄妹

呉羽冬解

鎌倉祇王本郎の執事。天白に仕える。

遠間克巳

「黄昏館」常勤のコック。いじられキャラだが、腕は超一流。

式部為吹

天白の有能な秘書。

宿敵

かつての親友同士

義兄弟

兄のような存在だった

祇王泠呀

若宮泰多として高校2年生まで「朝陽院」で夕月と共に育ち、大学生活を送っていたが、"泠呀"として目醒め、夕月の敵に廻る。

祇王夕月

高校1年生。前世は女性でルカの恋人だったが、その記憶は現在はない。他人の"痛み"を吸収し、傷を癒す能力【神の光】を持つ。

夕月(前世)

恋人同士

どこか懐かしい

今の主人

主人

ソドム

ルカの眷属の獣王。人間に化けることも可能。

ルカ=クロスゼリア

上級悪魔。異界では罪人一族として、奴隷のように扱われていたらしい。悪魔でありながら人間の仲間に加わり、現在は祇王一族と行動を共にしている。

信頼する仲間

守るべき対象

戒めの手

夕月を守護し悪魔を狩る役目を負う、二人一組の能力者。
能力を保持するために転生を繰り返し、悪魔との戦いを続けている。

相棒(パートナー)

降織千紫郎

大学生。今回の戦いから戒めの手に加わった「新人」。保守専門。現在は修行のため、黒刀とともに鎌倉に滞在中。

蓬萊黒刀

高校1年生。プロ棋士として活躍していたが、悪魔との戦いに備えり退する。攻撃専門の戒めの手。

相棒(パートナー)

碓氷愁生

高校2年生。双剣【罪と罰】を召喚し悪魔を"解縛"する保守専門の戒めの手。特殊能力【神の目】を持つ。別名「見とおす者」。

蓮城焔椎真

高校1年生。大剣【神技】を召還し悪魔と戦う攻撃専門の戒めの手。特殊能力【神の声】を持つ。別名「焼き焦がす者」。

相棒(パートナー)

叢雨九十九

高校1年生。銃【弔いの鐘】を召還し悪魔を"解縛"する保守専門の戒めの手。特殊能力【神の耳】を持つ。別名「聞き識る者」。

叢雨十瑚

高校2年生。大剣【永久】を召還し悪魔と戦う攻撃専門の戒めの手。特殊能力【神の耳】を持つ。別名「聞き識る者」。

Story 22

THE LAST TRACE

TSK...
THEY ARE GREAT AT RUNNING AWAY.
THOSE BAD FELLOWS!
THEY EVEN HAD GUNS WITH THEM!
Did they just escape from prison?
Real guns I've... never seen that before
HEY, KID!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THOSE GUYS?
DON'T CALL ME A "KID"!
I'VE GOT A NAME! IT'S MEIKA EBATA!!
MEIKA-CHAN...
WHAT HAPPENED?
.....

THERE ARE RUMORS THAT HE'S ASSOCIATED WITH THE YAKUZA.
AND APPARENTLY IT'S TRUE!
THE VERY ONE.
EH...
VILLAIN...? DON'T TELL ME MR. DOGOU? THE LAWYER?
I TOLD YOU, THAT YOU MUSTN'T EVER GET YOURSELVES INVOLVED WITH SUCH BLACKMAILING!!
MY FAMILY IS A THORN IN THEIR SIDE!
THOSE BEATNIKS?
WELL...
THEY THREATENED ME, THAT SOMETHING HORRIBLE WILL HAPPEN...
IF MY FAMILY CONTINUES DISTURBING THEIR AFFAIRS.
THIS VILLAIN OF A LAWYER HIRED THOSE GUYS—!!
TH—
THAT'S WAY TOO DANGEROUS!
WHY SHOULD THOSE MURDERERS GET AWAY WITH IT?!
BUT...
THOSE ARE THE BAD GUYS!!

MEIKA-CHAN...
IF IT CONTIN-UES THIS WAY ...
I WILL CORNER THAT LAWYER AT ANY COST!
WAIT...NO!
MY SISTER WILL NEVER BE LAID TO REST!
YOU SHOULD TALK WITH YOUR PARENTS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY AND...
...GO TO THE POLICE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING ABOUT MY FEELINGS, SENSHIRO!!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
YOU'RE NOT A SCRAP OF HELP!
AH...
IDIOT
MEIKA-CHAN...
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS LET YOURSELF GET TREATED LIKE THAT?!
MEIKA-CHAN'S SISTER
...WAS KILLED BY A DEVILISH PHANTOM.

HE WAS CALLED "BOY A"!
THE CULPRIT WAS ACTUALLY ARRESTED ONCE!
NOW I REMEMBER!
HER FAMILY
DESPERATELY SEARCHED FOR THE CULPRIT.
THEY EVEN PUT OUT A REWARD
AND PRINTED FLYERS ABOUT THE CASE.
I GOT TO KNOW MEIKA-CHAN WHILE SHE HANDED OUT SUCH FLYERS.
AND WE GOT TO TALKING.
YES.
THE BOY WASN'T OF LEGAL AGE YET.
HIS FACE AND NAME WERE NEVER PUBLISHED.
IT SEEMED THAT THE CASE WAS CLOSED.
...WAS THIS GUY TATSUHITO DOGOU
BUT THE LAWYER FOR "BOY A"

BUT THIS IS JUST UNFAIR.
LAW SHOULD BE ON THE SIDE OF THE VICTIMS...
WHILE THE COURT WAS STILL BUSY WITH EVIDENCE
THAT GUY...
HOW CAN A MURDERER BE ACQUITTED OF A MURDER CHARGE?
IT BEATS ME...
DOGOU USED THAT TIME TO ARGUE THAT THE BOY WAS INNOCENT.
THEY SAY HE CAN EVEN TRANSFORM BLACK INTO WHITE.
WILL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY.
...WITH MY POWER.
I'LL PROTECT MEIKA-CHAN ...
MEGIRU VADA

A BRUSH
SEEING HER
I'M ALWAYS SADDENED ...
WHILE SEEING THAT GIRL IN THIS CONDITION
I THINK IT'S HARD
THAT SHE ...
...IS TRAPPED IN THOSE FEELINGS.
SO YOUNG AND ALREADY DRIVEN BY REVENGE.

TAKE CARE OF HER!
THE BIRD HE PAINTED WITH THE BRUSH FLEW!
BEAUTIFUL.
IS THAT SENSHIRO'S SECRET POWER?
AND...
WHAT ABOUT THE EVIL AURA...
...SURROUNDING THAT HUMAN CHILD CALLED MEIKA?
!
THIS...
...YOU ALSO RECOGNIZED IT.
I ALREADY WANTED TO ASK YOU.
DO YOU THINK THOSE VIBRATIONS ORIGINATE FROM A DURAS?

BUT A SMART DURAS WOULD HIDE HIS AURA.
REMINDS ME OF IT AT LEAST
.. I THINK.
YOU THINK SHE CAN CALL A DURAS?
A HUMAN POSSESSED BY A DEMON ISN'T DISTINGUISHABLE FROM A NORMAL HUMAN.
I WASN'T COMPLETELY SURE, BUT NOW...
I FIRST SENSED THIS VICIOUS AURA IN THE GIRL A FEW DAYS AGO.
OH WELL ...
IT MAY BE THAT...
MEIKA-CHAN POSSESSES A GRIMOIRE.
RIGHT
BUT WHERE ELSE WOULD THIS EVIL AURA COME FROM?
LET US INSPECT IT!
SHE ATTENDS MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER ALL!!
WHAT SORT OF REASON IS THAT?!
HEY, LOOK!
THERE ARE A BUNCH OF TOTALLY HANDSOME GUYS OVER THERE!!
Where?!
REALLY?

WHOA
OH, WHAT DREAM MEN, EVEN FROM AFAR!
But what are they doing there?!
WE SHOULD APPROACH THEM! THEY DON'T LOOK BUSY WITH SOMETHING ELSE!
What do they want?
DO YOU MAYBE FEEL LIKE...
DRINKING A TEA WITH ME?
UM... ERR...
HELLO?
YES..?
EH?
What a misunderstanding!
JUST FORGET IT! GOODBYE!
E...EXCUSE ME!
WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY THAT?
.....
DON'T GIVE IT ANY SERIOUS THOUGHT.
OH WELL...
I DIDN'T SEE HER AT FIRST.
DAMN ...
POINTLESS, HE HAD HIS GIRLFRIEND WITH HIM.

LET ME GO, SENSHIRO!!
THERE, THERE. LET'S JUST RETURN TO THE RESIDENCE, KUROTO!
OH NO, HERE WE GO AGAIN...
HONESTLY!! DO I LOOK LIKE A GIRL?!
SET THAT RIGHT INSTANTLY!!
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
YOSHINO?
RENJO-KUN!
OI, DON'T ERASE THAT!
I'M NOT DONE YET!
Dong Dong
I...IF YOU WANT, TAKE MY NOTES, PLEASE...
ERR... THE NOTES YOU MISSED

I'LL TAKE THE OFFER.
THANKS.
blush
AH...
TSUMA
IMPRES-SIVE
YOU ALREADY LOOK COMPLETELY HEALTHY
OH WELL
THAT'S SIMPLY THE DIFFERENCE TO NORMAL PEOPLE.
IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR YOU, IF YOU FORGOT THE WHOLE EVENT...
NO!
I DON'T WANT TO FORGET!
I...
BUT YOU...
WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT TO ERASE THE DEMONS FROM YOUR MEMORY?
UHM
HOW IS GIOU-KUN?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
HE'S ALRIGHT.
He's just absent today because he has something to deal w th

...DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT!!
THAT'S WHY I BEG YOU...
THAT THIS INCIDENT CHANGED ME.
BECAUSE I'VE GOT THE FEELING
SURE.
YES..!
SHIORI-SAN! ARE YOU COMING?
There'd be nobody that would believe it.
I GUESS, IF YOU WANT IT WOULD BE OKAY.
I'M COMING!
OH, SORRY!
THANK YOU RENJO-KUN.
SO JUST HAND THE NOTES BACK TO ME SOMETIME.
FINE.

BUT I'VE ONLY GOT YOU...
I THOUGHT THAT IF I HAD OTHER PEOPLE WHO MEAN SOMETHING TO ME, IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR ME.
...YOU THINK?
IRREGULAR
OI, SHUSE! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO USED TO BE SUCH A WOMANIZER!
WHAT'S UP WITH THE IMPRESSION YOU HAVE OF ME?
THAT'S NOT FOR ME!
NONSENSE!
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH HER?
SHE...
...REALLY LIKES YOU.
EH?
YOU HAVE SO MUCH THAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU...
YOU KNOW...
FOR WHAT?
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE A THING
BUT THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU
I TELL YOU ALL THE TIME, TO ME YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT...
WHAT...
...WILL TAKASHIRO-SAMA DISCUSS WITH YUKI?
SAY WHAT?
IS IT ABOUT YUKI'S COLLISION WITH REIGA?
EVERYTHING IS GETTING MORE UNCERTAIN BIT BY BIT
ME IS SOMEWHERE ELSE AGAIN...
THAT IS NOTHING YOU CAN JUST TAKE
SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR...
BUT I'VE REALIZED, THAT IT WON'T WORK THAT WAY.
SHUSE! ...

TAKASHIRO-SAMA...
YEAH...
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
THE PRIVATE GROUND START HERE.
NO CARS ARE ALLOWED SO WE'LL HAVE TO WALK TO THE RESIDENCE.
LUKA?
I CAN'T STEP FURTHER.
WHAT?
OH YES ....
FOR YOU IT'S NATURALLY DIFFICULT TO ENTER THE HEADQUARTERS.
NO PROBLEM

LUKA...
WHAT?
BUT...
SURE.
IT'S ALRIGHT, LET US PROCEED A BIT.
EXCUSE ME
COULD I BRIEFLY TALK TO YUKI IN PRIVATE?
YOU WON'T COME ALONG?
BUT WHERE WILL YOU GO THEN?
I'D LIKE TO STAY WITH YOU ..
BUT I'M A DURAS.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE IT WHEN I ENTER THE GIOU RESIDENCE.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU.
BUT DON'T WORRY
I WILL BE CLOSE BY HERE.
...
OH...
IS THAT SO?

KANATA-SAN PRESENTED T TO ME AS I PASSED THE EXAMS.
THIS ONE ...
TH S TAL SMAN
MY HEAD IS FULL OF QUESTIONS
YES...
TAKASHIRO-SAN...
I MEAN, TALK ABOUT REIGA WITH ME.
WILL PROBABLY TALK ABOUT KANATA-SAN.
IT'S THE LAST THING THAT I...
...STILL HAVE LEFT.
THAT WAS IN MY THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
IT'S BEEN JUST OVER A YEAR SNCE THEN.
THE LAST TRACE OF HIS EXISTENCE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW ...
IF I ACTUALLY WANT TO HEAR THE TRUTH.
AND NOW...
JUST A YEAR AGO...
YES...

HE IS SO FAR AWAY...
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT...
I HAD TO TAKE IT WITH ME.

I AM GOING NOW.
YUKI TAKE SODOM WITH YOU.
...YES IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
THIS VOICE...
MAYBE HE WILL HELP YOU SOMEHOW.
THIS HAND...
Whimper
HAHA I' M GLAD TOO, SODOM!
THEY STEADIED ME THE WHOLE TIME
GO NOW.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU
OKAY!
THEY CALM ME DOWN
YES...
THOSE WORDS ALONE
DON'T WORRY.
IT WILL TURN OUT ALRIGHT.

LUKA ...
YOU HAVE ALWAYS STROKED MY HAIR... RIGHT?
?
IN THE PAST.
YOU USED TO COMFORT ME THIS WAY.
.....

WELCOME BACK.

I AM RATHER NERVOUS AFTER ALL...
IT'S SUCH A HUGE ESTATE
SODOM ...
AHAHA
I AM THE ESTATE'S STEWARD
MY NAME IS FUYUTOKI KUREHA.
WELCOME BACK HOME, YUKI-SAMA
Y...YOUR SISTER?!
YES.
I AM GLAD ...
...THAT WE ARE FINALLY ABLE TO MEET EACH OTHER.
Anyway, we will meet later!
Let him handle it.
UM...
THE NAME KUREHA...
ARE YOU RELATED TO THE TWILIGHT MANSION'S AYA-SAN?
YES
AYA IS MY SISTER.

AH...
WE SEE EACH OTHER AT LAST!!!
!!?
AAH! HOW YOU'VE GROWN!!
!?
??
!!
LAY OFF, TSUBAKI-SAN!!
I HAVE TO KISS YOU!
KISS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!
UM?
ERR...
YOU REALLY ARE FLAWLESS
DAMNIT!!

He's such a cutie!
BUT WITH YUKI IT'S DIFFERENT!
STOP IT, TSUBAKI.
POOR YUKI-KUN...
Girls are a lot prettier
SO WHAT?
UH... I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T FANCY MEN, TSUBAKI-SAN?
DON'T SAY SUCH A THING, MASAMUNE!
STOP IT, YOU'LL TERRIFY HIM!
Nee-chan?!
WHAT?!
IBUKI-SAN... NEE-CHAN...
ARE YOU PERHAPS THE SISTER TO SHIKIBE-SAN?
ER, NO ...
I AM SORRY, YUKI-KUN
MY SISTER SIMPLY CAN'T BEHAVE.
TAKASHIRO-SAMA JUST ACTS UP!
HAHA, SHE IS QUITE RIGHT.
TSUBAKI!
I JUST COULDN'T RESIST ANYMORE!
NEVERMIND.
YES. WE ULTIMATELY WANTED TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES LATER, BUT...

NOW ...
RELAX, WOULD YOU.
YOU WERE ALREADY HEARTILY WELCOMED...
WEREN'T YOU, YUKI?
A BAMBOO GROVE
SHALL WE MOVE INTO THE GARDEN?
I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
—WHOA
LOVE & PEACE

I HAVE A VAGUE MEMORY OF THIS
AS IF I HAD BEEN HERE BEFORE.
IT'S PLEASING THAT YOU'RE HERE.
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED. YOUR BODY HASN'T FULLY RECOVERED
NO...
ERR...
BUT YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, TAKASHIRO.
AH...
BUT..
WHAT ABOUT YOUR INJURIES?
THEY ALREADY HEALED
THERE ARE NOT EVEN SCARS LEFT.
YOU WANT TO SEE?
FORGIVE ME
I AM PREPARING FOR A CEREMONY.
MY PHYSICAL CONDITION ISN'T THE PROBLEM.
THOSE THAT YOU GOT WHILE PROTECTING ME...
OH...
—THE WOUNDS ARE COMPLETELY HEALED

BUT
WHILE HE GUARDED ME
REIGA'S ICE ARROWS
PIERCED DEEP INTO HIS SHOULDERS AND ARMS
HE HAD COUNTLESS INJURIES
NO WONDER, THAT YOU'RE ASTONISHED.
NOW YOU SEE, THAT YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE
WHO IS ABLE TO HEAL WOUNDS
YES...
I THOUGHT ...
I THOUGHT THAT THOSE INJURIES, CAUSED BY SOMEONE CLOSE, NEVER HEAL...
I INFLICTED SHUSEI WITH A WOUND
THAT'LL NEVER HEAL
THE SCAR ON YOUR CHEEK ORIGINATED FROM
THE INJURY CAUSED BY REIGA BECAUSE IT NEVER HEALS.
EXACTLY THAT'S IT
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT THIS INJURY...
WILL NEVER HEAL
BECAUSE I EXPOSED MYSELF TO A TABOO...
...CURSING MYSELF WITH THE "LOST SPELL".

I...
..HOST IN MY BODY...
...A DURAS
BECAUSE THIS DURAS LIVES INSIDE ME
...MY BODY ALSO REGENERATES UPON BEING INJURED AGAIN AND AGAIN.
AND NEVER AGES.
THE SPECIALTY OF THIS DURAS IS...
...THAT IT REPEATEDLY REGENERATES IT'S HOST'S BODY.
SO...
THROUGH THIS TABOO "LOST SPELL"
THIS DURAS IS ALLOWED TO LIVE INSIDE ME AND GRANT ME IMMORTALITY.

I HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY LIVING SINCE THE "SUNSET OF THE UNDERWORLD"
FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
I AM...
...NOT REBORN LIKE THE ZWEILTS.

Story 22 · End

uragiri wa boku no namae wo shitteiru

The Betrayal Knows My Name

STARGAZING SCANLATIONS

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From the time of the "Setting of Taurus"...

I have lived for over a thousand years.

LOVE & PEAC

Story 23

The Frozen Time

Story 23

The Frozen Time

裏切りは僕の名前を知っている

Betrayl

Knows My Name

I thought I heard Yuki's voice...

It was probably just my imagination.

Tsukumo?

Oh, I...

YUKI-CHAN

We could go...

...if only Takashiro-sama gave us permission...

...but, if only...

I'm just worrying too much...

aren't I?

See Yuki...

It's incredible...

Just how much we want to be...

I'm right there with you,

by his side

Tsukumo

Takashiro-sama, using a secret technique, has, since the time of "the setting of Taurus",

Tou...

Touko-chan told me...

She said you found a way to preserve all of your memories...

not lost a single memory, and alone, carries all these memories with him, not leaving behind a single one.

LIVING

o

o

o

for more than

1000

years

o

o

o

Takashiro -san...

...has never been reincarnated...

So...

So, in other words, "never dying" is what she was talking about?

...all this time, he's been alive...

...That is correct.

The Duras that nests in my body

continually repairs every corner of my body,

down to each and every individual cell

This, of course, includes my memory.

He can't forget a single memory

.....

...Why?

I am unable to forget...

...Why are your actions this extreme?

Keeping a Duras...

Even keeping a Duras inside your own body...

Inside...

... even a single moment, with no exceptions.

Wasn't...

...wasn't that spell forbidden?

However

I had my reasons

...very powerful reasons to stay alive, even if it meant having to resort to these methods.

Yes.

I willingly cast a sacred boundary aside...

I knew what I was doing was the mark of a madman...

We needed someone who understood the trials and meaning of war

Someone with the sufficient knowledge,

power, and will to lead, or surviving would have been an impossibility.

In order to be able to fight on equal ground with them, an extensive knowledge of sorcery,

centuries of war strategies and experience are absolutely necessary

I hold all of these within the confines of my mind.

One of those reasons would the Duras

creatures of the darkness... inhabitants of the underworld that have been around for thousands and thousands of years...

....and the fight against them.

...Is just too short.

On top of that, a normal human's lifespan, when compared to that of a Duras...

.....That's why you couldn't allow yourself to die?

...That's why....

BUT...

the "Spell of Reincarnation"

passed down through generations of the Glou clan

Allows one to control those sacred and untouchable laws of reincarnation...

to a certain degree

Normally...

When we speak of "reincarnation"

Reincarnation.... is the uncertainty of not knowing

when or even who anyone will be reincarnated as, unless you are there to witness the event and even then, it is not always possible to know with certainty

Another reason I needed to remain alive, was so that I...

..could cast the "Spell of Reincarnation"...

...on you and the Zweilts.

...Of course, I have other reasons.

As I'm sure you know, This fight with the Duras was not able to come to a conclusion the first time around.

Over the course of a little over a thousand years...

over and over again, this fight has repeated itself...

When I realized the possibility of that dread becoming reality...

There-fore...

I concluded that I would need to intentionally-

No...

...*forcefully* reincarnate all of your souls

The ability to control rebirth...

Taking advantage of my ability to forsee into the future

I would look ahead a hundred, two hundred years...

looking for any signs of an approaching battle

So that when the time came...

I could call on their souls again

So...

whenever you or a Zweilt was on the verge of dying...

I would perform the spell.

If I didn't, then the necessary manpower ..

...All of you... as descendants and holder's of the Giou Clan's godly powers

no matter what means I had to make use of ..

...I needed you to exist, before our battle started once again

SFX: Winds Blows

Call Our Souls

...back

In that place where your souls are kept...

There, a soul will drown in the storm of its memories, without the grace of salvation

The destination for your souls...

...which have had the reincarnation ritual performed on them, is different from the afterlife where normal human souls go after death.

that's why, even though every soul is different,

Generally speaking, the memories of your past lives will stay you, even in reincarnation

...especially those you wish to forget the most.

Once again, I felt...

I was the only one

Who could see all of this through

your souls are forcibly pulled back to this world, time and time again, to undergo the same, unchanging fate

On top of that, At the selfish convenience of others,

To be frank, your souls are caged...

...prisoners to an endless cycle of death and rebirth...

...It's unforgivable, isn't it?

Again...

and again...

and yet, it is I....

I am the one who forcibly commands your souls to return...

With no escape

TRAPPED...

. I have known since the beginning...

...that your reborn souls would be brought back to this wretched world, just to be forced to go through the pain, bitterness and suffering of battle... countless times, with no possible escape.

What casting that spell would cause...,

...it's ok to hate me

Yuki.

.....

S... Something like hate...

Surely, no one-

How could we?

I'm absolutely sure

that the Zweilts could never find reason to hate you either.

Something that sad...

If we were forced to relive all those painful memories, over and over again, as if they had happened just a second ago.

What would you do?

Sad things, rough times we go through

bitterness

regret...

Takashiro-sama, himself, chose to shoulder it alone.

That that would just be too painful, wouldn't it?

Y-y but, that pain...

Choosing to shoulder such an enormous responsibility, and yet

being unable to voice a single complaint...

Could I handle it, if it were me in Takashiro-sama's shoes?

Could I stand it?

could I stop the flow of time inside my-self?

...and bear it all alone?

...I think I understand now.

I understand what Touko-chan truly meant.

...Say,

Yuki-chan"

and give our scarred and torn hearts

a brief moment's rest.

That was your wish.

You wished:

Instead of being forced to live through the endless months, years...

That we could, in the tranquility known as death, ...

Forget our endless fight...

Why didn't you choose the road of immortality for us as well, then?

Why did you choose to walk that road alone?

Takashiro-san... the reason you didn't choose that road for us was so that...

...Because Takashiro-san

you are the one who is sacrificing the most out of all of us.

at least...

...at least... our souls could rest, even if yours was not able to...

keeping up....

trapped inside

a limitless prison of memories,

tWat kind of pain has he had to brave alone?

A.L.O.N.E.

Ah...

Robbed of a basic human freedom

All Alone.....

to forget the sadness, pain, and regret we go through,

that should fade with time.

No, Instead, to have all that pain...

Just...

"Our father searched desperately for you while he lived"

"My father met your mother and they fell in love"

"Older brother"?

"Nice to meet you"

"Then your mother went missing"

For the sake of our father, and for my sake, won't you come live with me in Tokyo?

So...

You being my older brother...

Takashiro-san...

Is...

is my...

...it was all a...

.....

...That's right.

...I'm sorry.

I've been deceiving you all this time...

I never had a father, of course.

Of everything I told you...

The only truth is that your mother passed away.

!.....

I am not

Your Brother.

...I didn't want to frighten you away.

I didn't...

want to scare...

...

I thought that it would only confuse and scare you if I tried to explain such a complicated and burdensome situtaion to you

Born without any memories of your past life...

A pawn ...

I regret having ever thought that way

I deeply regret it now...

I'm sorry.

No matter the lie

All I thought about was how to bring you over to our side, and for that...

no matter what means I had to use, I spared none

I didn't care who "God's light" was

...I had greedily calculated the outcome of my lie.

...No.

I'm just making excuses for myself...

In order to take you away from the orphanage

I decided it was best to play of a relative: The closer the better.

In doing so, I thought that everything would go "smoothly" as I had planned.

...Yuki,

I calculated your reaction as well.

I had calculated that by using such a method, that you would soon...

Soon, you would open up your heart to me...

I only thought of how to take advantage... Of how to exploit "God's Light"

...Yuki...

Surely,

You must scorn me now...

.....

....No.....I...

I guess I couldn't do anything

...as your younger brother, in the end...

...to help you, to drive away or understand your loneliness

...YUKI...

I wanted...

...to be there for you.

...will ever understand your pain?

Now that you've met Yuki,

what did you think of him, Tsukumo?

...to comfort you, as your younger brother...

I wanted to help you... to support you...

Who... In this world...

...becoming hurt and scarred himself, in the process...

I'm sorry, Yuki.

shouldering them...

Carrying them, letting them build inside him...

He...

..Frankly,

I'm worried.

He takes on other people's pain, down to the scars in their hearts,

and makes them his own...

It worries me

How he can just keep taking on people's feelings, and keep...

I'm so sorry.

In the past...

You always comforted me like this, didn't you?

Luka

This isn't the first time you've touched my hair like this, is it?

.....

All those memories...

Will he remember one day?

Damn it!

SFX: Don! (BAM!)

...

BUT

...most likely...

Those were words said casually...

spur of the moment...

It's irritating

...that I'm frustrated over something like this.

But, the truth is...

I was waiting...

I will not lose my self control like this.

"Yuki doesn't need to remember"

to be this shaken by Yuki's words...

...that's right. That was all I wanted

.. but, now...

If I think back, to that time, when I was just waiting...

I just wanted Yuki to be by my side, in front of my eyes.

Waiting for her to be reborn...

I waited for such a long time...

Hope pillages through my chest

Dummy.

It would have been easier on you, to forget...

I had even resolved, for yuki's sake...

I never forgot...

even for a single moment...

I

I'm so sorry, Luka

I can't become your happiness

Afterwards...

She cried..

She was crying, lamenting...

I don't..

...have the right to...

What do I truly want?

Do I want Yuki to remember?

I love you,

Luka.

...Or do I want Yuki to remain like this,

... without remembering anything?

that Yuki should regain all of his memories

If that time should come...

I have an idea...!

as to of why she was reborn without any memories of her past life

but, if it should happen

...Would Yuki be able to withstand it?

Squeeze

What is "love"?

Is that...

the true form of this agony? Is "love" the name you give to this pain?

...You're right...

there can be pain...

These emotions...

in loving someone...

Emotions

Emotions that did not exist inside me, until I met Yuki...

that threaten to tear me apart from the inside

Even so,
I have never once wished
To go back...

Back to the
time when I didn't
know this pain

Even if I
can't call you
"brother",
I...

These hands...

such a
kind touch...

A warm
embrace...

"I-KU"

SQUEEZE

HUG!!!

SODOM
TOO!!!

.....

I'm sorry, crying like that...

Yuki~ Don't cry! Don't cry!

S-Sodom ...!

...huh?

Not at all.

I'm the one who should be apologizing-

Sta-re

Ah.. He can change into human form, I see.

..He's a dragon, appearances notwithstanding.

I completely forgot he was here..

This boy is Luka's familiar.

It's ok.

You lied for my sake, after all.

Sure...

I won't deny that I'm sad, dissapointed that Takashiro-san is not my older brother...

I probably would have doubted everything, been overly cautious and shut myself off from everything.

I probably wouldn't have believed you.

It's as you said; In the beginning, even if you *had* told me, and explained all of this,

how important you are to me, Takashiro-san.

...But..

That does not change

It's like...

...everything....

that I had carried for so long...

just like that,
this boy manages to wash it all away

like it was never there...

the air around us is being purified...

The feeling of something precious...

something meant to be treasured, loved...

Takashiro-san...?

I've felt this before... So nostalgic...

...Is this De-ja vu?

Thank you,

Yuki...

I feel as if...

everything has been forgiven

C.U.T.E.

♡

Cute!

...Without realizing it, we lost ourselves in conversation...

What I wanted to show you is a bit further up. Will you be ok, walking?

We're almost there.

Oh.

Yes, of course.

Um, Takashiro-san?

Can I ask you a question?

Yes?
Go ahead.

I'm fine.

I am taking countermeasures against it.

There's no need for you to worry.

Are there...

any risks

involved with having a Duras inside your body?

...There's just no way there wouldn't be, is there?

...So there are.

There's a reason it's called the "Forbidden Lost Spell", after all.

has an unparalleled, iron resolve.

This man...

It's almost as if...

The reason

I let a Duras take up residence inside me, like a parasite, was so that I would remember

down to the last millisecond

every detail of that man's, *Reiga's*, deeds on that day... So that I would never forget what he did the day of the "Setting of Taurus"

The way he uses his own life

is so reckless...

Takashiro-san...

What in the world...

is causing you to go this far?

This person

...come

Let us talk of the past

Everything is so we can take him down

That man...

This fight against the Duras...

Could also be considered a fight against Reiga himself...

about what happened on that day that came to be known as the "Setting of Taurus" ...one thousand years ago.

Story 23 • END

Uragiri wa Boku no Namae wo Shitteiru

Betrayal Knows my Name

Hotaru Odajiri

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Betrayal Knows My Name

Story 24

EVEN NOW I STILL REMEMBER ...

THAT GENTLE WIND THAT BRUSHED MY FACE...

THEN, I'LL BE HEADING OUT.

I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE TO YOU TWO.

REIGA

YOMI

WE UNDERSTAND. LEAVE IT TO US.

BE CAREFUL ON YOUR JOURNEY.

TAKA-SHIRO

...

I ALSO REMEMBER ...

?

WHAT IS IT, YOMI?

...IT'S NOTHING.

THAT FINAL SMILE YOU SHOWED FULL OF FOREBODING

COME BACK SOON.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME...?

AT THAT TIME,

AND WHO IS THERE THAT CAN HEAL

THIS NEVER-ENDING PAIN,

THIS AIMLESS SUFFERING,

THIS THOUSAND-YEAR LONELINESS...

Story 24

Paradise Lost

JUST LIKE THIS HE HAS LIVED FROM THE "SETTING OF TAURUS" 'TIL NOW, FOR ONE THOUSAND YEARS...

HE KNEW THE DANGERS OF THE FORBIDDEN RITUAL AND STILL PERFORMED IT ON HIMSELF

A CURSE

A DURAS

LIVES IN MY BODY

THAT BURDEN

HAS BEEN GIVEN ENTIRELY TO ONE PERSON.

A CHOICE HE SEEMS TO HAVE FORCED UPON HIMSELF.

WHY DID HE?

"BATTLING REIGA."

THIS FEELING IS ALSO A BIT SCARY

BUT

CLENCH

I MUST KNOW

THE BATTLE WITH THE ODASTS, AT THE SAME TIME, IS ALSO A BATTLE WITH REIGA.

THE REASON

WILL BE REVEALED SOON

THIS DECISION WAS NOT MADE AS THE "HEAD OF THE GIOU CLAN."

IT COULD NOT BE DONE SO EASILY

I MUST

STOP HIM

AT THE GIOU, MAIN HOUSE,

Ah!

It's this!?

THERE IS A ROCK CALLED "GOD'S STONE" THAT HAS A LOT OF MAGICAL POWER

IT'S "GOD'S STONE."

THIS IS...!

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT THAT WE WORKED FOR MOVED OVER HERE,

WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ALSO CHANGE OUR BASE OF OPERATION.

THAT'S WHY WE MOVED "GOD'S STONE" HERE.

KYOTO ...?

AH, THAT'S RIGHT I NEVER TOLD YOU.

ACTUALLY, IN KYOTO THERE ARE ALSO SOME BRANCHES OF THE GIOU FAMILY

...NO, WHAT I SHOULD SAY IS THAT THE HEADQUARTERS IN KYOTO IS THE REAL MAIN GIOU HOUSE.

HA HA

IF IT WAS LIKE THAT, IT WOULD BE VERY CONVENIENT TO CARRY AROUND.

THAT'S SURPRISING. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A LOT SMALLER...

something like this

THIS ROCK

WAS ORIGINALLY AT KYOTO.

AH, OKAY!

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MEET THEM SOON.

!

OUR KYOTO BRANCH ALSO HAS SOME ZWEILTS LIVING THERE,

...AH,

KUROTO?

ISN'T THAT...

DID WE INTERRUPT SOMETHING?

AH

TAKASHIRO -SENSEI

I SEE...

I HOPE IT WASN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

THANK YOU FOR ESCORTING YUKI HERE TODAY,

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HEAD BACK.

NO,

...I'M JUST HERE TO GIVE A REPORT

IT'S OKAY. AFTER ALL, IT IS MY JOB AS A ZWEILT GUARDIAN TO DO THIS.

WELL THEN.

I'LL GO AHEAD.

DO YOU WANT TO PLAY SHOGI LATER?

WITH ME.

AH, WAIT A SEC.

KUROTO

I'VE ALWAYS REALLY ENJOYED

WATCHING YOU PLAY SHOGI!

...WH-

.. WH ...

PLEASE PLAY ONE ROUND WITH ME,

PRETTY PLEASE!

AH

I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I WILL NEVER PLAY SHOGI ANYMORE!!

YOU!

...YOU ARE SO STUBBORN!

I GUESS IT DIDN'T WORK

Sadam wants to play too

SUCH A CUTE REACTION

HE'S EMBARRASSED

IT'S TRUE THAT BEING A PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER IS DIFFICULT AND HAS MANY INCONVENIENCES

PREPARATION FOR WAR...

HIS DETERMINATION...

MAKES IT SEEM LIKE "HIS LIFE IS ALREADY OVER."

BUT KUROTO

...REALLY?

WILL HE REALLY NOT PLAY SHOGI ANYMORE...?

IT'S BECAUSE, TOWARDS THE DURAS, KUROTO'S ATTITUDE,

IN A WAY,

IS MORE DETERMINED AND...STRICT... THAN ANYONE ELSE'S.

THERE LIES ONLY NEVER-ENDING HATRED.

IN KUROTO'S HEART,

HIS PARTNER WAS MURDERED BY AN OPAST.

IN A PAST BATTLE.

NOT ONLY THAT, IT WAS DONE BEFORE HIS VERY EYES

IN KUROTO'S CASE, HOWEVER,

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME A ZWEILT HAS DIED AT THE HANDS OF AN OPAST, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SIMILAR SITUATIONS.

BUT BECAUSE ZWEILTS BATTLE IN GROUPS OF TWO, THOSE SAME TWO WILL ALWAYS DIE TOGETHER IN BATTLE.

.....

THEN FIND ME AND KILL ME.

DO YOU HATE ME?

ARE YOU ANGRY?

THE OPAST PURPOSEFULLY SPARED HIM.

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BORE ME, NOW WOULD YOU?

.....

EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY TEMPORARY,

HE REFUSED TO PARTNER WITH OTHERS.

I'M HAPPY FOR HIM.

...NOW THAT HE HAS FINALLY FOUND A NEW PARTNER

KUROTO HATES THE DURAS...

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ZWEILTS WHO DIE?

UP UNTIL THIS POINT, HE HAS ALWAYS BATTLED ALONE, FIGHTING ON LIKE A POSSESSED MADMAN.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, HE'S NEVER STOPPED BLAMING HIMSELF FOR BEING UNABLE TO PROTECT HIS PARTNER.

THE "REVENGE" THAT KUROTO WAS TALKING ABOUT EARLIER,

SHOULD BE FOR HIS MURDERED PARTNER...

ALL THE FALLEN ZWEILTS

ARE PAID RESPECT THROUGH THIS "GOD'S STONE."

UNFOR-TUNATELY

HUMANS THAT ARE KILLED BY DLRAS

GET THEIR SOULS COMPLETELY DESTROYED

WON'T THEY BE REINCARNATED SOMEWHERE ELSE?

(Takashiro)

EVEN IF I PERFORM THE "REINCARNATION SPELL", THEY WILL STILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXIST IN THE PRESENT

(Yuki)

DO YOU MEAN... THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXIST ELSEWHERE... LIKE A NORMAL PERSON?

WILL BECOME

THAT'S WHY EVEN REINCARNATION IS...

IMPOSSIBLE.

THESE 1,000 YEARS,

THOSE DURAS WE'VE BATTLED

ARE ALL SUMMONED BY ONE PERSON: REIGA.

THAT'S DRIVING KUROTO FORWARD,

THAT'S MOTIVATING HIM

...THE ONE WHO SUMMONS THESE DURAS IS...

IT'S REVENGE.

HERE...

ZWEILTS DON'T HAVE GRAVESTONES.

REIGA?

IS IT...

IT'S HIM.

THAT'S RIGHT."

THAT MAN HAS IMMENSE SPIRITUAL POWER THAT WOULD HORRIFY ANYONE.

TO SUMMON EVEN ONE OPAST

YOU NEED IMMENSE SPIRITUAL ENERGY AND DETERMINATION

WERE FEW

ORIGINALLY [HUMANS] CAPABLE OF SUMMONING AND CONTROLLING HIGH-LEVEL DIVAS

NOT ONLY THAT,

REIGA

CAN SUMMON SEVERAL OF THESE OPASTS

AT THE SAME TIME.

SHAAA—!

"REIGA," HAS HE

ALSO BEEN REINCARNATED JUST LIKE THE ZWEILTS...?

KANATA-KUN

IS "REIGA'S" REINCARNATION...?

...YES.

BEFORE IT COMES TO THAT,

REIGA WILL ENTER A "HIBERNATION" STATE IF HE USES UP ALL HIS SPIRITUAL ENERGY.

BUT,

HE WILL SLEEP IN A SAFE PLACE UNTIL ALL HIS SPIRITUAL POWER IS RESTORED,

THOUGH THIS DOES REQUIRE SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS.

HE SURVIVES LIKE THIS.

IT IS ONLY BECAUSE HE IS REIGA THAT HE IS ABLE TO DO SO.

EVEN BACK THEN, OUR CLAN WAS ABLE TO USE UNIMAGINABLY POWERFUL MAGIC.

WE WERE KNOWN AS "GOD'S DESCENDENTS", BUT...

HIBERNATION ...?

SEVERAL HUNDRED / YEARS?

!?

..NEVERMIND.

WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU, TREAT IT AS A RUMOR.

RUMOR HAS IT THAT THIS "GOD'S STONE"

WAS USED BY THE GODS BACK WHEN THEY STILL EXISTED ON THE EARTH.

LATER ON, IT WAS GIFTED TO OUR CLAN.

.THAT WAS HOW THE GIOL CLAN STARTED

...HE WAS A CHILD WITH BOTH HUMAN AND DEMON BLOOD.

REIGA'S SITUATION WAS EVEN MORE SPECIAL.

HIS MOTHER WAS OF THE GIOU CLAN,

WHILE HIS FATHER WAS AN OPAST.

A CURSED CHILD.

...!

DURING THE BATTLE TWO GENERATIONS BEFORE,

HE SUFFERED LIFE THREATENING WOUNDS

THIS BODY IS ALREADY USELESS

I MUST USE THE "REINCARNATION SPE..."

AFTERWARDS HE HAD TO REINCARNATE AGAIN

IN THE FORM WHICH YOU KNOW AS "KANATA WAKAMIYA"

IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU

PUT A SOUL TAINTED WITH DEMON BLOOD IN A HUMAN BODY.

AFTER EXCESSIVELY USING HIS DEMONIC POWERS,

HIS BODY STARTED TO DETERIORATE.

REIGA HAD TO GIVE UP HIS PHYSICAL BODY A SECOND TIME

AND, SO, FOR THE FIRST TIME, REIGA GAVE UP HIS PHYSICAL BODY.

AND I USED THE "REINCARNATION SPELL"

THE FACT THAT HIS SPIRITUAL POWER IS TOO GREAT

IS WHY A HUMAN BODY WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS.

.....

YOUR MEETING WITH HIM AT "ASAHI ORPHANAGE"

CAN ONLY BE SEEN AS A CRUEL TRICK OF FATE.

WHEN HE WAS BORN, IT WAS AS A "NORMAL HUMAN BEING".

I THINK THAT THE "KANATA-KUN" YOU KNOW IS NOT COMPLETELY FAKE.

...EVEN THOUGH SAYING THESE WORDS MAY NOT MAKE THE SITUATION BETTER...

I...

WHEN REIGA FIRST REINCARNATED,

WE DESPERATELY SEARCHED FOR "REIGA'S REINCARNATION"

BUT, IN THE END WE COULDN'T FIND HIM.

THAT MAN, AGAIN, APPEARED BEFORE US AS AN ENEMY.

OF COURSE, WHEN HIS BODY "GREW TO BE ABLE TO USE MAGIC,

HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS AWAKENED

FOLLOWED BY HIS MEMORY

SEALED "MEMORY" AND "SPIRITUAL POWER"

THAT HE REINCARNATED WITH THE CONDITIONS OF

WE ONLY LEARNED LATER ON

TO SEAL HIS "MEMORIES" AND "SPIRITUAL POWERS"

"THE BOOK OF RAZIEL"

"I COULDN'T READ IT BEFORE BUT RECENTLY IT MAKES SENSE"

IN ORDER TO NOT BE DISCOVERED

HE MADE PREPARATIONS BEFOREHAND

SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT

Kanata-kun, ...Then he...

REIGA USED THAT TECHNIQUE AGAIN.

...THAT'S RIGHT

..THIS TIME

LET'S EAT THIS DESSERT TOGETHER.

YUKI,

AND AT THE SAME TIME,

LIVING AS "KANATA WAKAYIMA"

THE RE-INCARNATION

THE KANATA WITHOUT THE MEMORIES OF "GIOU REIGA",

YUKI, NO ONE TEASED YOU AT SCHOOL, RIGHT?

THIS IS THE LUCKY CHARM I USED TO PASS MY EXAMS.

IT WILL PROTECT YOU.

YUKI,

I THINK OF YOU AS MY OWN LITTLE BROTHER...

CLENCH

THE KANATA THAT HAS BEEN WITH YOU ALL THIS TIME

IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE REAL HIM.

KANATA-KUN...

"REIGA".

WHAT, EXACTLY DID HE DO

DURING THE "SETTING OF TAURUS"?

I'M OKAY.

YUKI.

TAKASHIRO -SAN

WHY DID HE

BETRAY HIS WHOLE CLAN...?

...EVERYTHING THAT I WITNESSED WITH MY OWN EYES,

I WILL TELL YOU.

THE ORDERS THIS TIME, ARE THEY FROM THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT?

WHEN TIMES WERE MORE PEACEFUL

THIS WAS 1,000 YEARS AGO...

THE GIOU CLAN SECRETLY LIVED DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

WHEN THAT NIGHTMARE HAPPENED,

I WAS WATCHING OVER OUR VILLAGE.

THERE, OUTSIDERS ARE UNABLE TO ENTER;

IT WAS ONLY OUR PEOPLE THAT GAVE BIRTH TO OUR OWN CULTURE.

IMMERSED IN GENTLE WINDS,

YOU COULD SAY THAT IT WAS, HEAVEN ON EARTH.

...TAKASHIRO

HA

AND SO THEY WANT US TO CLEAN UP FOR THEM?

HOW ANNOYING.

I HEARD THAT

THE PRIEST AND MONK THEY SENT COULD NOT STOP IT

THAT'S RIGHT,

APPARENTLY SOME UNKNOWN PRIEST SUMMONED AN OPAST.

WHETHER IT WAS ON PURPOSE OR NOT CAN NOT BE CONFIRMED.

YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT, REIGA.

YOMI.

THIS IS ALSO OUR JOB.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY BY YOURSELF, TAKASHIRO?

THE CASE THIS TIME SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF CASUALTIES...

COMPARED TO MY PROBLEM...

I'LL BRING SEVERAL "ZWEILTS" THAT HAVE THE ABILITY TO REPEL DEMONIC MAGIC.

IT'LL BE ALRIGHT.

YOU'RE RIGHT

RIGHT, REIGA?

THE VILLAGE IS SURROUNDED BY A BARRIER,

IT'S FINE.

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE VILLAGE AND ITS LACK OF GUARDIANS.

NO ONE CAN ENTER.

HN...

AND THERE'S ALSO REIGA.

ANYWAY, WE HAVE GIOU-SENSEI

AT THAT TIME,

THE PEOPLE LEADING THE CLAN

WERE NAMED THE "FOUR GODS", OR THE FOUR MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THE CLAN.

WITH GIOU-SENSEI AS THE MOST POWERFUL,

THE FOLLOWING THREE WERE ME,

YOMI,

AND REIGA.

IT WAS THE SAME AS USUAL,

BE CAREFUL ON YOUR JOURNEY

WE UNDERSTAND. LEAVE IT TO US.

REIGA, YOMI.

I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE TO YOU TWO,

THEN, I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW

WITH THE SAME PARTING WORDS.

TIME COULD'VE STOPPED THERE.

IF ONLY

BY THE TIME WE FINISHED UP THE BATTLE AND RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE,

TWO MONTHS HAD PASSED.

THERE WERE MORE DURAS THAN WE WERE TOLD.

WE WENT TO BATTLE THE OPAST AND EXPERIENCED MANY TROUBLES AND HARDSHIPS.

AFTER-WARDS,

HOW

DID THIS...!!?

IS THERE ANYONE THERE!?

AH...

IT...

WAS THE DURAS... ARMY.

HOLD IT TOGETHER! WHAT HAPPENE-

TAKA ...

TAKA -SHIRO -SENSEI ...

...REI-

WAIT, DURAS!?

WAS THE BARRIER DESTROYED?

RE ...GA -SENSEI

WENT CRAZY

PAA

CRACKLE

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, HURRY UP AND PUT OUT THE FIRE!

RESCUE ANY SURVIVORS!!

BITE

WH-... WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED HERE!!?

THE VILLAGE...!!

BOOM

PAL

AH...!

Huh!?

CRACKLE

SHAAA...

!!

REIGA...?

THERE IS ONLY "DARKNESS".

RISE

SHOCK

drip.

ALMOST LIKE IT CAN SWALLOW YOU WHOLE

REI...GA...
IS IT...

YOU...?

DARKNESS...

SHOCK

WAS ALL THIS DONE BY YOU,

REIGA!!?

THAT IS THE "BOOK OF RAZIEL"!

YOMI...!!

SO WHAT IF IT WAS...?

FOR EVERYTHING.

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE

TAKASHIRO

SHINE

!!?

REIGA VANISHED.

AFTER KILLING OVER HALF OF OUR CLAN,

THOSE DURAS APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE ..!

I DON'T KNOW THE REASON..

THAT NIGHT WAS VERY PEACEFUL.

WITHOUT A LEADER IN THE VILLAGE,

OUT OF THE "FOUR GODS", BOTH GIOU-SENSEI AND YOMI ..DIED.

HE'S CRAZY

IT WAS REIGA WHO SUMMONED THEM.

HOW SCARY

WE WERE ON OUR OWN.

THAT'S WHY A CHILD WITH MIXED BLOOD...

THE ZWEILTS WERE ALSO KILLED.

TYPICAL. TAINTED WITH DEMON BLOOD ..

THE HEAD OF THE DURAS, AFTER USING A LARGE AMOUNT OF DEMONIC POWER IN THE BATTLE,

DISAPPEARED.

REIGA WOULDN'T BETRAY US.

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM STAY IN THE VILLAGE.

TERRI-FYING.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME,

ANOTHER THOUGHT SURFACED IN MY MIND.

OF COURSE, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

REIGA ALSO HATED HUMANS.

POSSESSING IMMENSE SPIRITUAL POWER AT BIRTH,

EVEN THE VILLAGERS WERE SCARED OF THE HALF-HUMAN HALF-DEMON CHILD.

IT SEEMED ALMOST AS IF HE HAD NO ATTACHMENTS TO THIS WORLD.

THAT'S RIGHT, THAT MAN

WAS ALWAYS DANGEROUS.

REIGA, HE

GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF HE JOINED THE DURAS...

IT'S ONLY NOW THAT THE NIGHTMARE CAME TRUE.

.....

...NO, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

BUT THEN,

WHY

I WILL KILL YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS.

REIGA.

IT NO LONGER MATTERS

WITH HIM

WE HAD FIVE MORE BATTLES.

AND WE NEVER MENTIONED WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT AGAIN.

DECLARED WAR ON EACH OTHER.

THE GIOL CLAN AND REIGA'S ARMY OF DURAS

AFTER-WARDS,

THAT HE SAID THIS

THERE WAS ONE TIME, THOUGH,

DIE.

HUMANS DO NOT DESERVE TO LIVE.

WE CAN NOT LOSE.

WE CAN NOT LET HIM ACHIEVE HIS GOAL.

REIGA'S GOAL IS THE EXTINCTION OF THE HUMAN RACE...?

...THE DEATHS OF OUR COMRADES.

THE BLOOD THAT HAS BEEN SPILT...

...HE MEANT WHAT HE SAID.

NO MATTER WHAT, WE MUST DEFEAT REIGA,

AND END THIS WAR.

BUT WHEN IREIGA AWAKENED,

"KANATA WAKAMIYA" CEASED TO EXIST.

YUKI

I KNOW THAT TO YOU THIS MAY SEEM CRUEL,

THE HUMAN YOU KNEW AS "KANATA"

IS ALREADY DEAD.

...IT WOULD BE IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS

TO CONSIDER IT THIS WAY...

.....

Story 24 · END

Story 25

WE CANNOT LOSE.

NO MATTER WHAT WE MUST MAKE REIGA PAY,

AND PUT AN END TO THIS WAR.

PUT AN END...TO THIS WAR.

Betrayal Knows My Name

BETRAYED AND HURT...
EVEN SO, I STILL...

Story 25

Choose This Path...

SHAA...

TAKASHIRO -SENSEI. ARE YOU SURE IT WAS WISE

TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING?

SHAAA...

YOU'RE RIGHT...

THIS CRUEL TRUTH WHAT HE KNOWS NOW CANNOT BE FORGOTTEN

IT'S EASIER

TO FORGET THE PAST AND BEGIN A NEW LIFE

BUT NOW THAT WE'VE TOLD HIM

SHAKE SHAKE

WHEN DID YOU CHANGE BACK TO THIS FORM?

HMM, WEIRD.

Your head looks bigger somehow.. unless you're able to control your size in this form?

Don't be afraid.

Come here.

POI

Ah, that hurt!

I FORGOT YOU CAN'T SPEAK IN THIS FORM.

KEEPING YOUR HUMAN FORM WAS TOO TIRING, WASN'T IT?

..WAIT,

?

A SCARE-CROW?

WAS THERE ONE BEFORE...?

OVER THERE

WHAT IS THAT?

AT THE EXIT

Hn?

CRY...

Welcome Back YUKI~!

Ta-daaaahh~!

AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!!!

COME, JUMP INTO MY EMBRACE~

IT CAN'T BE...

YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME?

TACHIBANA, YOU BASTARD!! HOW COULD YOU ADD SALT TO THE WOUND!!

H-HOW COULD YOU, TSUBAKI.

WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS MAKING IT WORSE!

I JUST WANTED TO COMFORT YUKI... WHO HAVING HEARD OF THE GIOU CLAN'S TRAGIC PAST MUST HAVE had his heart destroyed to pieces, NOTHING LEFT BUT A SHELL OF HIMSELF...

TSUBAKI, YOU MIGHT KILL HIM!!

HA HA

Agh Agh Agh Can't breathe

EVERYONE...

IN THIS TENDER SITUATION YOU MUST PRETEND NOTHING EVER HAPPENED. THAT'S THE RIGHT WAY TO DO IT~~~!!!

YOU'RE OVERREACTING...

DO YOU FEEL BAD? ARE YOU IN PAIN? IT'S OKAY. JUST LET IT ALL OUT! YUKI!!

THAT IS NOT RIGHT! YOU POOR THING...!

TEAR

WAAAAH!

UMMM...

TSUBAKI-SAN AND IBUKI-SAN,

ARE YOU MY AUNTS...?

YUKI...

DID TAKASHIRO-SENSEI TELL YOU...?

YES

YUKI,

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR MOTHER, YOU CAN GO ASK TSUBAKI AND IBUKI.

THEN, MIZUKI-SAN'S SITUATION HAS ALSO BEEN EXPLAINED...

THAT MEANS... MASTER ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT HE'S NOT YOUR BROTHER.

WHICH ALSO MEANS,

THEY ARE YOUR MOTHER'S SISTERS.

THEY ARE YOUR AUNTS,

YOUR MOTHER'S NAME.

MIZUKI...?

..IS THAT SO?

MIZUKI

MY MOTHER'S NAME

THE TRUTH IS WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL YOU OURSELVES. .

WE'RE SORRY FOR HIDING IT FROM YOU.

YUKI.

YOU ARE OUR ADORABLE NEPHEW...

AUNTIE TSUBAKI AUNTIE IBUKI....

IS A PICTURE OF YOUR MOTHER.

YUKI

THIS

YOU CAN HOLD ON TO IT

MOMMY...

WHEN SHE WAS 19 YEARS OLD...

SHE WAS 19 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE GAVE BIRTH TO YOU.

YES

BUT AT THAT TIME SHE WAS ALREADY PREGNANT WITH YOU.

WA. BEAUTIFUL

.. SHE LOOKS SO YOUNG.

ABOUT...

THEN ONE DAY, SHE DISAPPEARED

...TAKING YOU WITH HER.

IT WAS REALLY DIFFICULT BUT WE FINALLY FOUND OUT WHERE SHE LIVED,

BUT BY THAT TIME SHE HAD PASSED AWAY.

NO ONE KNOWS WHO YOUR FATHER IS.

MY FATHER.

HE...?

IT WAS MIZUKI-SAN WHO REFUSED TO MENTION HIS NAME.

THOUGH WE BELIEVED SHE LEFT YOU AT THE ORPHANAGE

NO ONE KNEW WHERE YOU WENT

AND MOTHER LEFT ME...

...NO ONE KNOWS WHO MY FATHER IS

BUT YUKI...

THERE IS SOMETHING I DO NOT WANT YOU TO FORGET

I THINK THAT THE REASON THAT LED HER TO LEAVE YOU TO THE ORPHANAGE

DEFINITELY WAS NOT BECAUSE MY SISTER DIDN'T WANT YOU.

AT THAT TIME... I WAS ONLY 8 YEARS OLD,

EVEN THEN I KNEW

THAT TOWARDS THE BABY INSIDE HER.

THERE WAS SO MUCH.

SO MUCH LOVE FOR YOU.

...THE REASON SHE LEFT YOU AT THE ORPHANAGE.

MUST HAVE BEEN TO PROTECT YOU.

...THAT'S WHY,

OF COURSE,

WHEN YOU WERE BORN, WE WERE ALSO VERY HAPPY

WAA, IT'S LIKE HAVING A LITTLE BROTHER..

PLEASE REMEMBER ALWAYS,

YUKI, THAT YOU WERE BORN OUT OF MIZUKI-SAN'S LOVE.

THERE WERE PEOPLE

WHO WANTED ME TO BE BORN...

THAT I HAVE LOST ONE OF MY MOST IMPORTANT THINGS,

AND. ALSO GAINED SOMETHING PRECIOUS...

...YUKI,

I'M REALLY HAPPY.

"MY FATHER WAS A [illegible] EVERY TIME HE GOT DRUNK HE WOULD CRUELLY BEAT ME."

"AND I NEVER MET MY MOTHER."

AN IMAGE OF KANATA-KUN'S FACE WHEN HE SAID THESE EMOTIONAL WORDS SURFACED IN MY MIND

THE ONLY THING I DON'T KNOW WHY

I DO KNOW IS

IT'S NOT JUST THIS,

THE DURAS ARE HARD ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH...

BUT TO MAKE HIM AN ENEMY OF THE PERSON HE'S LIVED WITH FOR NINE YEARS IS TOO CRUEL.

..ALL OF US CHOSE TO COME HERE OURSELVES

THAT'S WHY YUKI SHOULD ALSO HAVE THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE HIS OWN LIFE.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO DO?

AS YOUR AUNT I WANT TO ASK YOU.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW IF LETTING YOU RETURN TO THE GIOU FAMILY IS ..WISE.

SAYING THIS MAY MAKE TAKASHIRO-SAN ANGRY

BUT,

TSUBAKI

OF COURSE, I DON'T WANT HIM TO ENDURE HARDSHIP EITHER!

THE REASON

I SAY THIS IS BECAUSE YOU MAY BE "GOD'S LIGHT", BUT YOU ARE ALSO MY NEPHEW

I...

WHAT EXACTLY IS IT I WANT TO DO?

AFTER HEARING EVERYTHING FROM TAKASHIRO -SENSEI... WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

YOU ARE A KIND-HEARTED CHILD,

AND THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SOMETHING YOU CAN'T REFUSE...

...I

...WANT TO END

THIS WAR.

BUT, THEN AGAIN

. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH,

THE DURAS TERRIFY ME.

EVERYONE IS SO FULL OF WARMTH.

I LOVE EVERYONE IN THE GIOU FAMILY MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

I, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART,

HOPE THAT SOMEDAY EVERYONE CAN BE SET FREE.

ANYONE WOULD WANT TO HELP THE PEOPLE THEY LIKE

WITH ALL THEIR STRENGTH. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT IT.

NO ONE FORCED ME INTO THIS...

BECAUSE,

KUROTO

SENSHIROU

EVERYONE...

TAKASHIRO-SENSEI

TOKO
TSUKUMO

HOTSUMA
SHUSEI

KANATA-KUN...

LUKA

THAT'S
RIGHT,

I MUST STOP

THIS NEVER-ENDING CYCLE.

IF THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS TO FIGHT,

THEN I CHOOSE TO GO TO WAR...

I FEAR THAT

THE WAR IS ONLY JUST STARTING...

AUNTIE TSUBAKI,

THANK YOU FOR CARING.

BUT I

DON'T WANT TO RUN AWAY

.....

WAA.

SHE REALLY IS A DOTING IDIOTIC AUNT.

[redacted] REALLY ARE WORTHY TO BE MY NEPHEW!!!

I'M SO MOVED!!

SUCH A YOUNG CHILD LIKE YOU HAS GROWN TO BE A BRAVE MANnnn!!

WAAAH

A-again

BUT YOU SHOULD FORMALLY INTRODUCE ME TO YUKI.

AH?

UMMM... NOT TO INTERRUPT,

WHAT DID YOU SAY, [redacted]

It can't be that she has super hearing!?

EHHH!? I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!

Nice to meet you

I'M A NECROMANCER IN TRAINING!

I AM IN CHARGE OF PROTECTING THE GATES AND AT THE SAME TIME I'M LEARNING HERE.

I'M A SOPHOMORE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

Please treat me well!

SHAKE SHAKE

Hello.

HA HA

YUKI, HE'S...

!!!

TSUBAKI'S APPRENTICE.

I'M CURRENTLY UNWILLINGLY TAKING CARE OF HIM...

THIS IDIOT HERE IS CALLED SHINMEI MASAMUNE.

WELL,

CAN YOU PLEASE BE MORE SERIOUS?

SNEAKILY

.. SO, YUKI,

SINCE WE'RE BOTH GUYS THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK...

YES?

WHAT DOES SHE WEAR TO SLEEP?

DOES SHE WEAR PAJAMAS? OR-

OOPS!

WHISPER

...NO ...SHE NEVER DID...

AH?

HAS TOKO EVER MENTIONED ME?

...THEN SHE-

OH, REALLY? YOU SURE?

.....

MASAMUNE!!

I SURRENDER, TSUBAKI! I SURRENDER!!

DO NOT SAY SUCH STRANGE THINGS TO YUKI!!

WE ORIGINALLY DIDN'T INTEND TO EAVESDROP

BUT IN THE END WE DID.

HUH

I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A POMPOUS PRINCE,

BUT IT SEEMS HE DOES HAVE HIS USES.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO SAY THAT, KUROTO.

WH-

SO YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT YUKI.

WHAT?! NO, I DON'T...

DON'T DENY IT. PLAY A ROUND OF SHOGI WITH HIM.

A WISE MAN ONCE SAID THAT ONE'S TRUE SELF CAN BE SEEN THROUGH SHOGI.

YUKI ALSO REALLY WANTS TO PLAY WITH YOU.

.....

IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY...

AH...

HE ALSO HAS A DURAS IN HIS BODY

AND HAS LIVED LIKE THIS FOR ONE THOUSAND YEARS.

TAKASHIRO-SENSEI,

HE IS NOT MY BROTHER.

TODAY I LEARNED MANY THINGS

AND NOW I UNDERSTAND EVEN MORE.

WHEN "REIGA" REINCARNATED, HE SEALED HIS MEMORY AND SPIRITUAL POWERS

UNDER THESE CONDITIONS

HE BECAME THE "KANATA-KUN" THAT I MET

ONE THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE,

"REIGA" BETRAYED THE GIOU CLAN...

AND KILLED ALMOST ALL OF HIS CLAN.

THIS TRAGEDY IS KNOWN AS "THE SETTING OF TAURUS".

NOW THAT "REIGA" HAS FINALLY AWAKENED...

HE IS ALREADY DEAD.

WAKAMIYA KANATA DOES NOT EXIST ANYMORE.

EVEN THOUGH THEY TOLD ME EVERYTHING,

SODOM...

THERE WERE STILL SOME THINGS THAT I COULDN'T ASK...

BETWEEN LUKA AND I...

ABOUT MYSELF...

...WHY IS IT

THAT I AM ABLE TO HEAL WOUNDS MADE BY DURAS?

WHY CAN ONLY I DO IT?

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED

IN THE LAST BATTLE...

NOT JUST THAT,

...BUT, I COULDN'T ASK.

I'M SO CONFUSED...

.....

SODOM,

WHAT'S YOUR MASTER DOING RIGHT NOW?

Do you know?

BLARGH!?

HEY

IS HE REALLY

GOING TO STAY BY MY SIDE...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DON'T MAKE WEIRD SOUNDS,

YOU IDIOT.

AH

I THINK I ATE TOO MUCH TODAY...

DINNER WAS SO EXTRAVAGANT

I COULDN'T SLEEP SO I CAME OUT HERE...

TO MOON GAZE...

KU. KUROTO

You scared me

YOU,

YOU'RE OKAY, RIGHT?

.....

.....

.....

IT SEEMS YOU'RE OKAY, JUST IGNORE WHAT I JUST SAID!

TURNS

GRRR, FORGET IT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

.....

I ASKED IF YOU WERE BORED!!

Y-YES! I'M BORED!

VERY BORED!

...ARE YOU BORED?

HUH?

!

KUROTO!

THANK YOU.

YOU DON'T NEED TO THANK ME!

U

U

...IF IT'S ONLY ONE ROUND

I'LL PLAY SHOGI WITH YOU.

KNOCK

KNOCK

...

KACHAK

SENSH-
IROU...

CAN
I COME
IN?

COME
IN.

...ARE
YOU WORKING
ON YOUR
HOMEWORK?

I KNEW
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE
INTERRUPTED
YOU.

NO,
IT'S OKAY.

ACTUALLY,

I STILL
HAVEN'T
FOUND THE
ANSWER.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY,

I'VE ALREADY COME UP WITH A SOLUTION.

REALLY ...?

SOMETHING WRONG?

AH. NOTHING

IT WAS THEIR FAULT

THAT CHILD WAS POSSESSED BY A DURAS A FEW DAYS AGO.

AND I HAVE SOME PROBLEMS OF MY OWN.

IT'S POSSIBLE SHE USED A MAGIC BOOK

I THINK I'LL TAKE A BREAK.

AFTER ALL, YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.

OH, YOU BROUGHT SOME TEA. THANK YOU.

AH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME...

HMM?

THAT RING

THAT

DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WEAR IT?

I SAW A MAID STANDING IN FRONT OF THE DOOR.

AND WHEN SHE SAW ME SHE RAN AWAY.

BUT SHE GAVE ME THE TEA

OH. AND WHY IS THAT?

Did someone especially make this tea for me?

He must have forgotten

I DIDN'T EVEN ASK ANYONE TO SEND SOME TEA OVER.

.....

AHH...

FINALLY.

BY BECOMING KUROTO'S PARTNER, I CAN FINALLY BE PART OF THE ZWEILTS.

IT SEEMS THAT...

FINALLY,

I'VE WAITED SO LONG...

FOR THIS DAY I HAVE WAITED FOUR WHOLE YEARS

FINALLY, I CAN FIGHT

...I CAN MAKE THEM PAY..!

THAT WAS BRUTALLY KILLED.

FOR MY FAMILY

Story 25 • END

Odapiri Hotaru

THE BETRAYAL KNOWS MY NAME

Urapiri wa Boku no Namae wo Shitteiru

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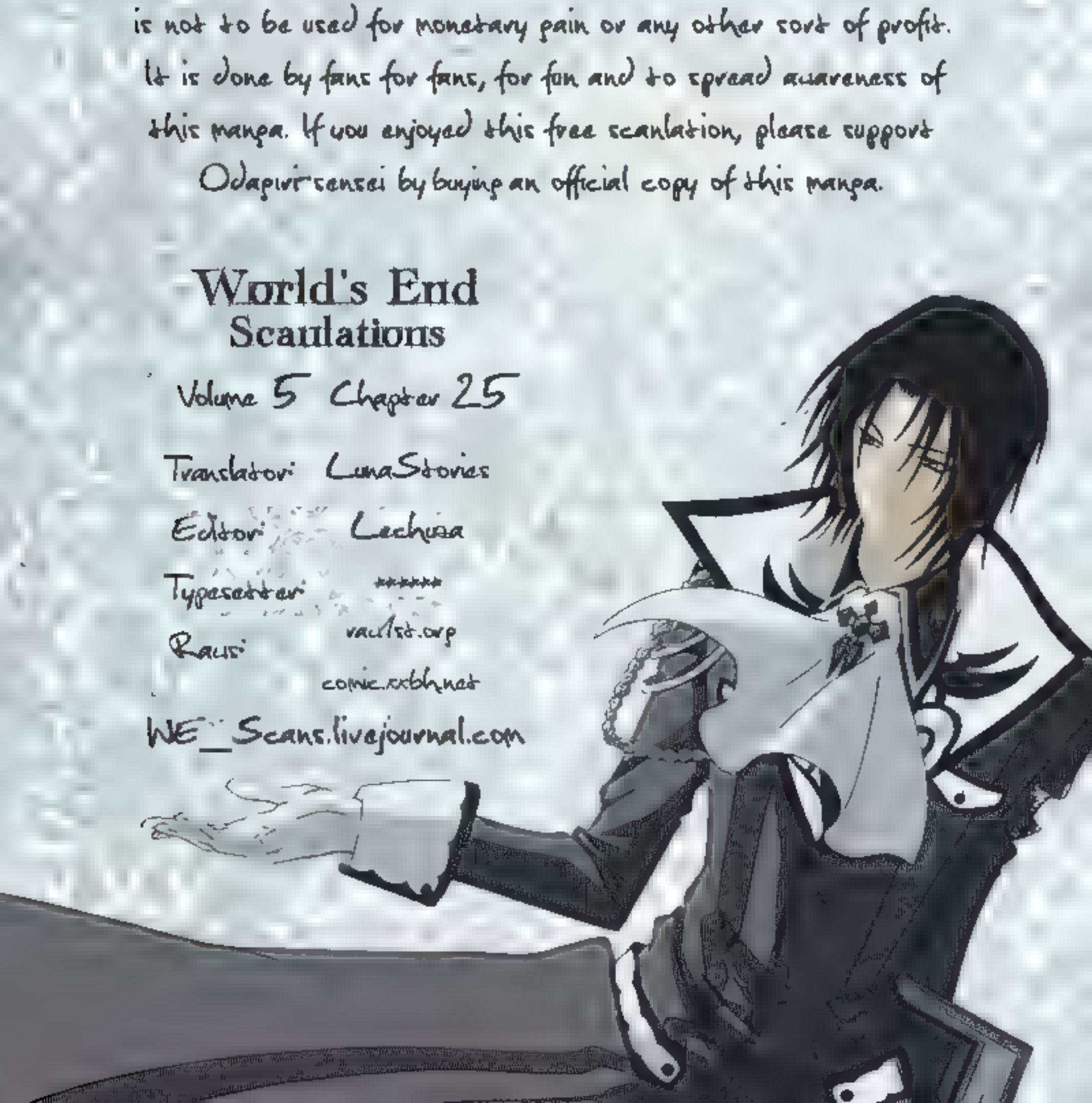


TO ME, THIS IS AN UNEXPLAINABLE, UNBREAKABLE BOND...

...ngal ...ions My Flame

Story 26

Night

NO...

YOU CAN GO FIRST

KUROTO,

MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

HE'S FACING A PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER AND YET HE REFUSES A HANDICAP .?

THIS GUY REALLY SURPRISES PEOPLE

...FINE.

!

NO THANK YOU.

I WOULD LIKE US TO PLAY FAIRLY SINCE PLAYING WITH YOU IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY.

YOU GET A HANDICAP.

THAT WAY,

MAY THE BETTER PLAYER WIN.

TAP

WELL... I THINK IT'S BECAUSE IF HE ENTERS THE MAIN HOUSE

SOME PEOPLE WILL NOT LIKE IT

OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME

THAT GUY...

AH.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT LUKA?

TAP

THAT GUY

WHY DIDN'T HE COME WITH YOU

INTO THE MAIN HOUSE?

HMM... I FIGURED IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

IT'S TRUE THAT THERE ARE SOME CLOSE-MINDED GEEZERS

EVEN THE BATTLE BETWEEN US AND THE DURAS IS BEING INFLUENCED BY THEM.

WHO CAN ONLY SEE ONE SIDE OF THE COIN,

SO BLINDED THAT THEY ONLY SEE THINGS AS BLACK AND WHITE.

IS HE TRYING TO DEFEND LUKA?

...THEN,

KUROTO...

YOU DON'T MIND. ? EVEN THOUGH LUKA

ISN'T 'HE ON OUR SIDE?

.....

HOTSUMA MIGHT HAVE OBJECTED TO A DURAS JOINING US,

BUT A HIGH LEVEL DURAS--ESPECIALLY AN "OPAST" WITH THEIR ENORMOUS SPIRITUAL POWERS

LETTING SUCH AN ASSET JOIN US IS ONLY NATURAL

IN THE LAST BATTLE WE HAD, WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD'VE BEEN. .

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF HE DID NOT HELP US

...I ALSO KNOW

THAT LUKA WOULD NEVER BETRAY YOU.

KUROTO...

UNFORTUNATELY...

THERE WAS AN INCIDENT.

AS LONG AS HE IS OF SOME USE TO US, I DON'T CARE WHAT HE IS

AS LONG AS HE

ALSO HAS THAT DEMON AS HIS ENEMY

NOW,

IT STILL DOESN'T MATTER IF HE IS A DURAS OR NOT.

I THOUGHT THAT...

HIS PARTNER WAS KILLED BY AN ODAST.

HE WOULD HATE ALL DURAS...

I

REALLY LIKE YOU, KUROTO.

NO SHAME

...hee hee

WHAT IS WITH THAT CREEPY LAUGH?

PERTURBED

hmm that one

DAMN IT ! I CAN'T TELL WHAT HIS TRUE MOTIVE IS!!

HOW DARE HE

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME? WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM ME!?

TO SAY THAT TO A PERSON HE PRACTICALLY JUST MET

WH . WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS GUY!!?

THIS PERSON ISN'T THE SAME KIND OF PERSON AS SENSHIROU, IS HE...!?

Q!

UNLESS IT CAN'T BE

What's his motive.

What's his motive.

TAP

Sweat

KUROTO IS SUCH A NICE PERSON.

THE FACT THAT HE ACCEPTS LUKA MAKES ME VERY HAPPY.

?

OH.. I GET IT, THIS MUST BE A PLOY TO UNNERVE ME SO YOU WILL WIN. I ABSOLUTELY WON'T GIVE YOU THAT SATISFACTION...

Sweat

Sweat

...KUROTO,

WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING SHOGI?

THE PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER HAS GOTTEN SERIOUS!!

HE IS PLANNING HIS ATTACK...

There are actually two of that species on planet Earth.

THOSE ARE EXACTLY THE TYPE OF PEOPLE I CAN'T STAND.!!

NICE PEOPLE=WEAK

ACTUALLY,

WHOM WE CALLED MASTER GARAN.

WHEN I WAS SEVEN I WAS TAKEN N BY SENSHIROU'S GRANDFATHER

DID YOUR FAMIL ES LIVE REALLY CLOSE?

WOW, SENSHIROU'S ?

THERE WAS A TEACHER AT THE ORPHANAGE I STAYED AT WHO TAUGHT ME TO PLAY SHOGI.

WHO WAS I INFLUENCED BY ?

AH

I THINK . WHEN I WAS AROUND EIGHT

TAP

.. IT WAS SENSHIROU'S GRANDFATHER.

FOR ME,

ALL OF THE ZWEI.TS,

ARE ACCEPTED BY A TEACHER AT AGE SEVEN TO TRAIN.

TO TRAIN...

BEING A ZWEI.T SEEMS TOUGH.

NO,

THIS ARRANGEMENT IS TO HE.P US RESTORE OUR MEMORIES, THUS RELEASING OUR POWERS.

WE ARE ALSO TRAINED IN MARTIAL ARTS AND DEVE.OP OUR FIVE SENSES TO THEIR MAXIMUM CAPABILITY

.....

THEN,

...YUKI,

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THAT OBSERVANT.

"ORIGINALLY"...?

IS HE ALSO... DEAD?

OH, I SEE

THEN SENSHIROU'S GRANDPA

IS YOUR TEACHER?

BUT, ZWEILTS LIKE ME WHO LEAVE THEIR FAMILY ARE UNCOMMON...

THE MURASAME SIBLINGS AND HOTSUMA AND SHUSEI ALL HAVE DIFFERENT TEACHERS

YES

HE WAS ORIGINALLY SENSHIROU'S ONLY LIVING RELATIVE.

HIS PARENTS DIED YOUNG.

IT IS AS YOU ASSUME.

MASTER GARAN IS DEAD.

AT THE HANDS OF THAT DEMON,

HE WAS MURDERED.

AND IT'S ALL...

MY FAULT...

IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN SO LONG

SINCE MASTER GARAN PASSED AWAY...

...WHO IS ALSO THE OWNER OF THAT RING

AGLA

AND TO GAIN THEIR APPROVAL.

...ONE OF THE HARDEST OBSTACLES

IS TO GAIN YOUR PARTNER'S TRUST

EVEN MORE DIFFICULT

I KNOW

IS TO GAIN THE MEMORIES OF THE PAST ZWEILT...

BUT IF I DIDN'T DO THAT,

—THEN I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO USE THIS RING AT ALL

SUDDENLY DECIDING THAT YOU WANTED TO BE A ZWEILT.

YOU SURPRISED ME,

TSUBAKI...

ALTHOUGH THE FURUORI FAMILY MATCHES THE REQUIREMENTS,

BECOMING A ZWEILT

IS STILL VERY DIFFICULT

IT ALSO DOESN'T HELP THAT KUROTO IS COLD TO OTHERS.

.....

TO SURPASS THE PARTNERSHIP OBORO AND KUROTO HAD WITH EACH OTHER

IS IMPOSSIBLE

KUROTO'S OLD PARTNER,

HIS NAME WAS OBORO, WAS IT NOT?

...THE TRUTH IS,

I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT...

I KNOW...

KUROTO...

WHEN I FIRST MET HIM,

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM.

SENSHIROU,

TSUBAKI,

NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M SENSHIROU FURUORI.

I HOPE WE'LL BE FRIENDS.

THIS CHILD IS KUROTO HOURAI.

FROM NOW ON HE WILL LIVE HERE.

HMF

OK?

HOW DARE YOU! DO YOU HAVE ANY MANNERS!?

EVEN THOUGH HE WANTED TO BE FRENDS WITH YOU!!

SO NOT CUTE!

WA-

DAMN BRAT

IGNORE

TSUBAKI, CALM DOWN!

BE FRIENDS?

WHAT ARE YOU, AN IDIOT?

GLARE

WE'RE THIS OLD ALREADY AND YOU STILL INSIST ON PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDS?

PAT

THAT'S RIGHT, LITTLE KUROTO.

Ha-ha-ha-ha!

YOU'RE BRAVE!

BUT YOU STILL CAN'T CALL OTHERS IDIOTS.

I think It's cartoby!

Wa~

Por'teall we such a disgusting nickname!

WHO'S LITTLE!?

THAT CHILD IS FROM THE HOURAI FAMILY,

KNOWN FOR THEIR GREAT WEALTH AND PRESTIGE

LUCKILY, THEY ONLY PUT HIM UP FOR ADOPTION AND DIDN'T COMPLETELY DUMP HIM.

THEY HAVE NO REGARD FOR THE "COMPENSATION" MONEY GIVEN TO THE PARENTS OF ZWEILTS.

. I SUPPOSE IT IS BECAUSE THE OPAST THAT KILLED HIS PARTNER HAS BEEN FOLLOWING HIM ALL THIS TIME.

COUNTLESS PEOPLE HAVE DIED AT THAT DEMON'S HANDS.

"GRIM REAPER"

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT CHILD'S NICKNAME AT HOME IS?

ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, SENSHIROU?

I AGREE.

BUT, THAT'S OBVIOUSLY NOT KUROTO'S FAULT.

I WANT TO SEE KUROTO SMILE.

OF COURSE!

HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A PARTNER..

ALTHOUGH, GRANDPA PITIED HIM AND TOOK HIM UNDER HIS WING,

IN REALITY HE HAS NO ONE TO DEPEND ON.

HE WAS PRACTICALLY ALL ALONE FROM THE MOMENT HE WAS BORN.

KUROTO IS SO SAD...

BUT THROUGH LIVING TOGETHER,

I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD...

KUROTO ALWAYS THOUGHT

THAT HE DESERVED ALL THIS ISOLATION.

EVEN FEELINGS SUCH AS HAPPINESS AND WARMTH ARE THINGS HE CANNOT EXPERIENCE.

AS LONG AS HE EXISTS ON THIS EARTH, HE MUST SUFFER THIS LONELINESS.

THIS IS HOW HE BUILT A WALL AROUND HIMSELF AS A PUNISHMENT.

IT'S LIKE USING A NEW WOUND TO SALT THE OLD ONE

THEN THAT'S TOO CRUEL.

BUT, IF THIS

IS ALL TO REPENT FOR THE DEATH OF HIS PARTNER

KA-CHA

AND HE CAN'T FORGIVE HIMSELF

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW LATE IT IS!?

WAY TOO SLOW!!

WE ALMOST STARVED TO DEATH...

AH, KUROTO, YOU'RE BACK. ?

Wait-ed the whole time

Gurgle Grumble

Waa!

I'M SORRY,

WE'LL START DINNER IMMEDIATELY.

YOU MADE ME WORRIED!

IF YOU ARE GOING TO COME HOME LATE, THEN SAY SO.

WE WON'T QUESTION WHERE YOU GO OR WHAT YOU DO

BUT,

IN THE END WE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE, WAITING FOR YOU TO COME BACK.

Oh ho ho!

EATING TOGETHER BRINGS MORE JOY.

OF COURSE THEY WOULD,

WHY DID THEY WAIT FOR ME?

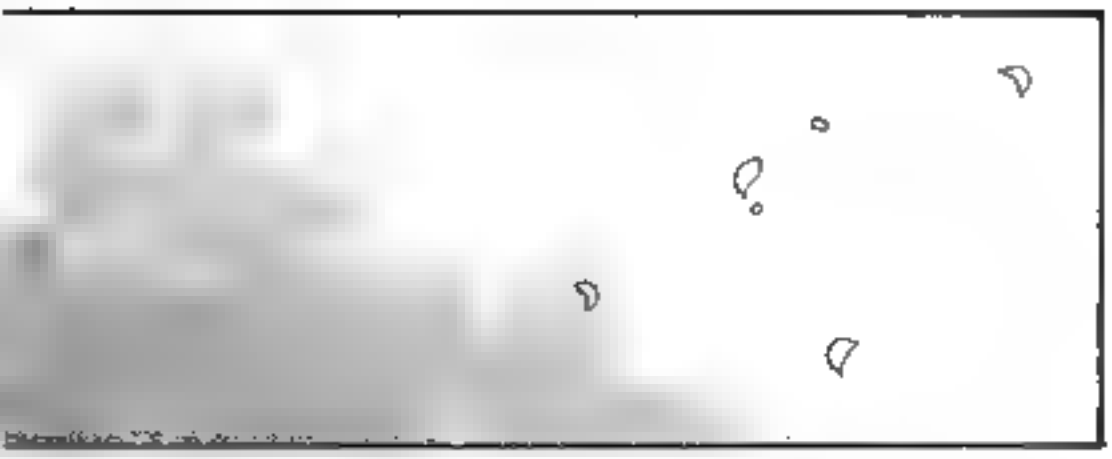
THUMP THUMP THUMP

MY FAMILY ALWAYS ATE DINNER SEPARATELY

I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE.

BUT HERE, EVERYONE WILL WAIT FOR YOU.

IS THAT SO?



WELL, IF YOU MUST INSIST ON GIVING IT TO ME,
then I'll reluctantly accept it
HMF
...
KUROTO?
KUROTO,
SOME OF THE OTHER STUDENTS GAVE ME SOME MOCHI. DO YOU WANT SOME?
KA-CHA

YOU STILL HAVEN'T FULLY DEVELOPED YOUR ZWEILT POWERS.
IT'S A SECURITY MEASURE TO PROTECT YOU.
IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS, THEY CAN PROTECT YOU.
BESIDES THE STUDENTS, THERE'S ALSO AN INCREASE IN SECURITY.
from the main house
ACTUALLY, IN THE PAST THERE WERE LESS.
HN?
.. THIS PLACE ALWAYS HAS A LOT OF PEOPLE.
...WHY?

PFFFT!

KUROTO, YOU'RE SO CUTE

IT SEEMS HE REALLY LIKES JAPANESE MOCHI

nom nom

BUT IT'S ONLY JUST IN CASE,

AS LONG AS REIGA IS STIL. HIBERNATING, THERE WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

.....

COUGH! COUGH! COUGH!

...I REALLY CAN'T STAND YOU!

AH, ARE YOU OKAY?

AH

DO YOU WANT MINE TOO?

ARE YOU SURE THERE ARE NO BENEFITS TO STAYING WITH ME?

OH, HOW CAN THAT BE ?

I SHARE SUCH TASTY THINGS

WITH YOU.

CHECK-MATE.

TAP

BECOME A PART OF OUR LIVES.

MIYUKI HAS SLOWLY

I HOPE THAT,

IN THE SAME WAY, YOU'LL SHARE THINGS WITH ME

JUST KIDDING.

DAMN IT!

WHY IS IT THAT I, THE GREAT TSUBAKI, CAN'T WIN AGAINST THIS LITTLE BRAT?

Irritating...

YOU BALDING OLD MAN, WON'T YOU QUIET DOWN?

Ho!

TSUBAKI, THERE IS NO CHANCE OF YOU BEATING KUROTO, HE'S ALREADY ONE OF THE TOP THREE SHOGI PLAYERS.

Ho!

Ho!

Really can't compare!

THEY SAY IT'S A MARRIAGE, BUT REALLY, IT WAS ALL ARRANGED BY THE GIOU MAIN HOUSE AND OUR PARENTS...

I KNEW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS

There's also a vast difference in our age

Wa~ Wa~

THAT GIRL IS ALWAYS SO LOUD...

SENSHIROU, DO YOU REALLY WANT HER AS A WIFE?

HA HA

THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

...HUH

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE CLEARLY NOT BLOOD-RELATED.

HE REALLY THINKS OF YOU LIKE HIS REAL GRANDSON.

EVERY TIME YOU WIN A SHOGI GAME HE GOES AROUND BRAGGING ABOUT YOU.

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, GRANDPA GARAN SURE LOOKS HAPPY.

SM-UG

I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

I TRULY AM BLESSED

I ALREADY HAVE A GOOD GRANDSON SUCH AS YOU AND NOW I ALSO HAVE KUROTO.

NOW ALL I NEED IS FOR KUROTO TO CALL ME GRANDPA ONCE AND I'LL BE HAPPY.

Kuro-

He only calls me Master

Such as "I have no regrets"

DON'T SAY SUCH STRANGE THINGS!

Ha ha!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING .?

...GRANDPA.

...I ALREADY HAVE NO REGRETS

I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT.

HMM? OH,

DON'T COME BACK LATE

I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT THIS...

SEN-SHIROU.

...SEN-SHIROU?

WHY IS HE SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT...?

AH, NOTHING, I WAS JUST DAYDREAMING

KUROTO, I WAS JUST IMAGINING ME AND YOU SPARRING!

WHAT'S WRONG?

DO YOU WANT TO GO TOGETHER?

THE MOON IS ALREADY OUT!

UWAHH,

SHOWING ME A PLACE SO PRECIOUS TO YOU...

...ARE YOU SURE?

WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THINKING OF OBORO.

IT FEELS LIKE WE CAN TOUCH THE SKY

.. DO YOU COME HERE A LOT, KUROTO?

I

HOW TO INTERACT WITH OTHERS

HAVE LONG FORGOTTEN

HE REALLY LIKED THE MOONLIGHT.

YES

TO WATCH THE MOONLIGHT

EVERYTHING, I'VE EXPERIENCED ALL BY MYSELF..

AND EVEN HAPPY THINGS,

MEMORIES

REGRET

PAIN

FEAR...

BUT...

I THINK NOW, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND...

BEING WITH YOU ..

ISN'T ALL THAT BAD.

THAT'S WHY,

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, YOU CAN COME TALK TO ME.

AS YOU SAID BEFORE, Y-YOU HAVE TO SHARE, RIGHT?

KUROTO, YOU'RE REALLY CUTE.

ARGH, YOU'RE SO

FINALLY

I CAN SEE KUROTO'S SMILE.

AND THEN, THAT WAS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.
THAT NIGHT...

IT'S AN ODAST ...!!?

TH S PLACE,

WHA-!?

THUD

UGH!

THIS. THE FEELING I'M GETTING FROM HIM... IT CAN'T BE. !

...RELAY THIS MESSAGE TO HIM.

A ZWEILT BY THE NAME OF KUROTO LIVES HERE.

ON THAT TRAGIC NIGHT,

THE GATES OF DEATH OPENED.

CADENZA IS HERE FOR HIM.

Story 26 · END

HOTSUMA AND SHUSEI CONSTANTLY ARGUE.

JUST TELL ME WHO IT IS ALREADY!

CHOMP CHOMP

Apple Snacks

IT WASN'T TAKASHIRO!!

WHO WAS THE PERSON EXCHANGING TEXTS WITH YOU!?

WHO WAS HE!?!?

WE'RE ALSO CHESS PARTNERS...

WH-...

He's just a good friend

Remember? He's the personal butler of Takashiro

IT WAS MR. FUYUTOKI.

WHAT!?

THAT STUCK-UP GUY?!

DUE TO HOW BUSY HE IS, HE SOMETIMES SENDS ME TEXTS ASKING FOR FAVORS.

BUT...MOST OF THE TIME THEY ARGUE OVER THE MOST MUNDANE THINGS.

I NEVER KNEW THAT YOU TWO WERE SO CLOSE!

WHY IS IT THAT HE HAS YOUR NUMBER AND I DON'T!?

Even if you did have one I would never give it to you.

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A PHONE!

Apple Snacks

▶こんにちは、小田切です。ここまで読んで下さり有難うございます。『裏僕』もついに５巻となりました。応援して下さる皆サマのおかげです。
▶『裏僕』は最初から「長編を」といわれてつくった物語ですが、そうはいってもどこまで続けられるかは神のみぞ知る(笑)なので、私の中では第１のゴールを決めてました。泠呀の正体が判明するところです。ココまでがなんとなく第１部…という気持ちです。有難くも「この先も描いていいよ」と背中を押して頂いたので、新たに仕切り直し、気持ちも更に引き締めて描いてます。一歩一歩丁寧に前進させられるよう頑張ります。
▶そんな気持ちもあって、カバーのデザインのほうも一新させてみました！　いかがでしょうか？　びっくりされた方も多いのでは…と思いますが、デザイナーの方が私があれこれ出した要望をきれいに取り入れて素敵にして下さいました♥ 前山さん、有難うございます♪
▶上で泠呀の正体が判るところまでが第１部、と書きましたが、焔椎真＆愁生ペアの物語でもありました。ここまで終えて、多くいわれること…「愁生ってどんだけ焔椎真好きなん(笑)」と。…そういわれてみれば、そうですね。いわれるまで思い至りませんでした、私(笑)。
愁生くんみたいな、たった１人のひとを心の拠り所として生きてるひと、世の中にいると思うんです。友達とかつき合いのある人間は皆無で、自分の大切なひとは１人だけ。その１人だけいれば十分っていう…そういうひとを描こうと思ってできたのが愁生くんです。まわりに人をたくさん置かないから、ともすれば淋しいひとに見えるんだろけど…友達もたくさんいればいいというわけではないと思うのです。自分にとって大切なものは何か、それをちゃんとわかっていることが、大事なんですよね。……愁生くんに限らず、これは『裏僕』の全体的なテーマになっております。愁生くんとは逆で、焔椎真は本来なら友達がたくさんいるタイプ。自然と人が寄ってきます。彼は"ツンデレ"といわれますが、私の中ではただの"意地っぱり"(笑)というイメージでしたね。
▶ツンデレの本領発揮といえば、黒刀……。皆にいわれてる…さすがに私もそうだね…と思う…(笑)。５巻からは黒刀＆千紫郎ペアがメインで、どうしても黄昏館メンバーの出番が減るのでせめて描き下ろしで出しました。あっルカも少ない！最近は読者さんに「そろそろルカが見たいです」という旨のお手紙を貰う始末で…（気づかれましたか(笑)）。でも、焔椎真たちも九十九たちも、今後まだまだ頑張ってもらいますので、待ってて下さい。私は黄昏館に全員が合流した時が、今から怖いです……大所帯……。

▶ドラマＣＤの第２弾が出ております☆ 何が有難いって、ＣＤではキャストの皆さんや音監さんのご尽力により、キャラクターがＭＡＸにかっこよくなっている！ことです。私は自分の作ったキャラを普段かっこいいと思って描いてるわけではないので、ＣＤを聴いて「あれ、こいつわりとかっこいい奴かも」なんて思ったりできるのが、すごく有難いです。もちろん女の子はＭＡＸ可愛い♥ 今回は３枚組の大ボリュームでつくって頂いたんですが、あっという間でした。それくらいの素晴らしい仕上がりです。自分も描き下ろしを頑張って、ジャケのデザインとかもスゴクいいので、たくさんの方に見て聴いてもらえるといいな～と思います。

▶Ａｓｕｋａ本誌ではキャラ人気投票の結果が出ました。コミックスにも載せられたら載せますね。前回「人気が落ちた」と書いた奏多(冷呀)さんですが、「私は好きですよ！」という方がちゃんといまして、結構上位でありました。しかもコアな人多し(笑)。有難いです。投票に参加して下さった皆さん有難うございました♪ …しかしこの漫画、男子ばっかだな、と思い知りましたね…。描いてて楽しいのは女の子に決まってるので、早く増やしたいデス。

▶今回、初回特典の『オフショットカード』がつけられず、すみませんでした。私の体調がすぐれず、描き下ろすことができませんでした(涙)。…と書くと、またご心配をおかけしてしまうでしょうか？ 無くなったわけではないですので、６巻の時は頑張りますね。誰にしようかな…♪

▶お手紙等、大事に大事に読ませて頂いてます。この頃は『裏僕』の世界観に合った曲を、ＭＤなどで送って頂いたりしてて有難いです。ＫＡＴ-●ＵＮにはびっくり…！ 誕生日のカードやプレゼントなど、皆さんのご好意が温かくて心に染みます。なかなかお返事が出せず申し訳ないですが、また気が向いたり何か思うことがありましたら、ご意見ご感想ぜひお聞かせ下さいませ。

○宛先○〒１０２－８７０８　株式会社角川書店　月刊あすか編集部気付　小田切ほたる

● 協力者の方々 ●

K-san.

F山春さま　Y.S.さま　S藤さま

O.K.さま　Y.E.さま（雑用ありがとうございます）

担当さま　S川さま　編集部の皆さま

いつも本当にご迷惑おかけしております…。

応援して下さる読者の皆さまへ

どんなに感謝してもしきれません。

これからも『裏僕』の登場人物たちを

見守ってやって下さい。

次巻ではいよいよオーバストもたくさん

登場し入り乱れます。（それも大活躍（笑））

またぜひお会いできますように！

2008.12

➡To be continued.

柊生くんはファンの方からは

もはや「王子」でも「貴公子」でもなく

「帝王」とかの呼ばれマス……（笑）

黒いせいですか？

あと、「ホウキをうまく使いこなしてる」

とかも いわれてますヨ（笑）

ありがとう！